

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner allowed Claims 21, 22 and 4-6. The Examiner issued a final rejection of the other then pending claims – Claims 3 and 7-20. Specifically, Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, and Claims 7-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over a single reference, U.S. Patent 6,544,294 (Greenfield, et al.).

Applicants herein ask that independent Claims 7, 13 and 19 be amended to better define the subject matters of these claims. Claim 3 is being cancelled.

The cancellation of Claim 3 renders moot the rejection of the claim under 35 U.S.C. 112, and it is not necessary to discuss Claim 3 further herein.

For the reasons set forth below, Claims 7-20 patentably distinguish over the prior art and are allowable. The Examiner is thus respectfully asked to enter this Amendment, to reconsider and to withdraw the rejection of Claims 7-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103, and to allow these claims.

Generally, Claims 7-20 patentably distinguish over the prior art because the prior art does not disclose or suggest the dummy tables, and the way in which the dummy tables are used, as described in independent Claims 7, 13 and 19.

In particular, it is believed that the rejection of Claims 7-20 may be based on a misunderstanding by the Examiner of the dummy tables that are used in the present invention and described in the claims of this application.

To elaborate, with a preferred embodiment of the invention, the entire display table is divided into a multitude of separately moveable dummy tables. This is done by forming a first dummy table including all of the main headers, forming a second dummy table including, for

example, all of the sub-headers under one particular main header, and forming a third dummy table including all of the data columns and data items of the table.

Each of these data columns is associated with one of the main headers or one of the sub-headers. In addition, with this preferred embodiment, the main headers of the first dummy table are moveable within that table, the sub-headers of the second dummy table are moveable within that table, and the data columns of the third dummy table are moveable within that dummy table.

The first dummy table is positioned at a specified position on a display screen, the second dummy table is moved to a position adjacent that first dummy table, with the sub-headers directly beneath the associated main header. The third dummy table is positioned adjacent the second dummy table, with each data column directly beneath the associated main header or sub header. The dummy tables are displayed together at the same time and side-by-side at different locations on the same display screen to form a single composite table on that display screen. This single composite table shows all of the headers and all of the data items of the table.

In the Office Action, the Examiner argued that “teachings [of Greenfield, et al.] provide reasonable suggestion to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to create ‘dummy’ tables (without content data and/or header data), providing the benefit of displaying initial presentation outlines of a textual work.” (Office Action of April 16, 2007, page 3, lines 15-18).

This, though, is not the type of dummy tables used in the present invention and described in the claims.

The dummy tables of the present invention are real, visible tables that hold actual headers and actual data items. These dummy tables are not imaginary tables or hidden tables. The

dummy tables of the instant invention include actual headers or data and are visible. The tables are “dummy” in the sense that each one, individually, is not the whole display table, and each one can be moved independently of the other dummy tables.

Moreover, in accordance with the present invention, the dummy tables, together, form the entire display table. In this way, the entire display table can be re-arranged using only the dummy tables.

The dummy tables used in the present invention are not used merely to provide the benefit of displaying initial presentation outlines of a textual work. Rather, with the present invention, when the dummy tables are put together, the entire table, including all of the headers and all of the data items, is fully shown.

Greenfield, et al, does not disclose or suggest the above-discussed use of dummy tables to manage the display table. More specifically, Greenfield, et al. discloses a method and a system for creating graphical representations of events such as screenplays, speeches or multimedia works. This graphical representation visually displays a presentation metric of events and the temporal relationships between events.

Events may be subsets of other events, and the graphical representations of the events may be moved around a display screen to show visually how the timing relationships between the events may be changed. Figure 10 of Greenfield, et al, which was specifically cited by the Examiner, shows a user interface screen having a time line display area and identifying a series of time related events, specifically acts and scenes of a play.

Greenfield, et al. does not disclose or suggest the manipulation of dummy tables that include actual headers and actual data items to form a composite table that has all of the headers and all of the data items of the table.

Applicants ask that independent Claims 7, 13 and 19 be amended to emphasize the above-discussed differences between the present invention and the prior art. In particular, as presented herewith, each of Claims 7, 13 and 19 describes a header dummy table holding headers of the original table, and a data dummy table including data cells of the original table and holding data items. Claims 7, 13 and 19 describe the additional features that the entire display table are divided into these three dummy tables, and that these dummy tables are moved to positions contiguous to each other to form a single composite table on a display screen, and that this single composite table shows all of the plurality of headers and all of said multitude of data items.

Thus, as described in Claims 7, 13 and 19, the dummy tables are not without content and are not used simply to provide an initial presentation outline. Instead, these dummy tables, as described in Claims 7, 13 and 19, hold actual items – the headers and the data items – and are used to form a complete table, including all of the headers and all of the data items of the table.

The other references of record have been reviewed, and these other references, whether considered individually or in combination, also do not teach or suggest forming and using the dummy tables as described in Claims 7, 13, 19 and 21 as described above.

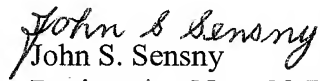
Because of the above-discussed differences between Claims 7, 13 and 19 and the prior art, and because of the advantages associated with these differences, Claims 7, 13 and 19 patentably distinguish over the prior art and are allowable. Claims 8-12 are dependent from, and

are allowable with, Claim 7. Also, Claims 14-18 are dependent from Claim 13 and are allowable therewith; and Claim 20 is dependent from, and is allowable with, Claim 19.

The changes requested herein only elaborate on features already included in the claims. For example, the claims currently describe header dummy tables and data dummy tables, and the amendments requested herein indicate expressly that the data dummy tables hold data items, and that when the dummy tables are put together, the complete table – including all the headers and all the data items – is formed. Accordingly, it is believed that entry of this Amendment is within the discretion of the Examiner, and such entry is respectfully requested.

In view of the above discussion, the Examiner is respectfully asked to enter this Amendment, to reconsider and to withdraw the rejection of Claims 7-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103 and to allow these claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' Attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully Submitted,


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